

CORRESPONDENCE.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the statements made, or opinions expressed by our correspondents.

Views of an Eminent Leper Physician.

MR. EDITOR: The following communication which will explain itself is thought to be of sufficient general interest to warrant its publication in your columns. The writer of the letter, Dr. Hansen, is well known in the medical world as a conscientious student and an authority on skin diseases, especially leprosy. The hospital spoken of, from which lepers have been sent out cured is situated at Bergen, Norway.

Yours truly,

N. B. EMERSON,

President B. H.

Dec. 17, 1889.

BERGEN, NORWAY, Nov. 9, 1889.

DR. N. B. EMERSON, Dear Sir: I must begin with an excuse for my bad English, but I hope that I shall be able to express myself well enough to be understood.

The questions you treat of in your letter cannot be well answered without writing a treatise and that would be a little too much for you and for me.

As to curability of leprosy I can have no idea of the influence of climate thereupon, as I never saw the disease in the tropics. It is true that with us some patients leave our hospitals cured, but I will not pretend that they are cured by the treatment. I am more inclined to think that leprosy is cured, principally at any rate, in its natural course without the interference of any treatment, if the patients only live long enough. All the leprosy eruption, the tubers as well as the patches, disappear in due time, but generally the tubercular patients die before the due time.

I have, however seen tubercular cases, in which all tubers had disappeared; there only remained anaesthesia as in the other form of the disease; and the patients in whom there is only left anaesthesia without any skin eruption I for my part consider as cured of leprosy; the anaesthesia is only the bad consequence of the disease. Sometimes it happens that the skin eruption, when it consists only of patches, morphea, disappears without having any anaesthesia, but that is very seldom. For generally the nerves are attacked very early, and it is rarely the case that the nerve affection is cured without leaving anaesthesia. In later years Dr. Unna, in Hamburg, pretends that he cures the disease by the remedies named in your letter—resorcin, pyrogallol and iodoform—but I can have no certain opinion in this matter, as I never saw any of his patients. Meanwhile, Dr. Danneberg here has tried his treatment, and, as far as his experiments hitherto go, the results are not better than by other treatment.

You see that I cannot give you any valuable facts on the treatment of the disease.

In my opinion it is safest to consider the disease as incurable and to lay all one's power on the prevention of the disease. In this respect much can be done. The disease being contagious, but probably very little so, cleanliness alone is, in my opinion, enough to prevent it. I consider the spread of the disease in Norway as only depending on the want of cleanliness among our peasants and on the want of fear of the contagiousness of the disease, which has prevailed among us till late years, the consequence of which has been that people have had unlimited intercourse with lepers. Probably this is the case in Hawaii also, as I judge from all what I have read and heard about the country.

In 1856 and 1861 we had here in Norway three asylums for lepers, into which up to this day have been taken in about 4,000 lepers. These have in this way been isolated from the sound population and have not been able to contaminate anybody. The consequence of this is that while in 1856 we had about 3,000 lepers in Norway we now have hardly 1,000. I cannot just now give you the exact figures as the statistics for 1888 are not yet ready; the task of making up the statistics for Norway is a little difficult as the reports from the different physicians in the tolerably large country do not come in as speedily as they ought to do. But at any rate they can be no doubt on the point that the isolation of the lepers is the chief cause of the diminution of the disease in Norway.

I have also in the last fifteen years steadily written and talked of the disease as a contagious one and most people now consider it as such a one and the consequence is that they have become more cautious in their intercourse with lepers. At the same time our peasants have made great progress in cleanliness, and I hope that the disease in some forty or fifty years shall have disappeared totally or nearly so from Norway.

How far our measures can be quite as good for your country as for this, I cannot tell.

It depends much on the state of society, and I have no idea what modification it would be necessary to make in the arrangements for obtaining isolation, this being the only means of extinguishing the disease.

If the Hawaiian Government would pay for the expense of the voyage I should like very well to see the lepers once and gather more

have studied almost all my life. Perhaps I could be of some use to you. If you should wish further details regarding our measures against the disease I am ever at your service. I am, dear sir, yours truly,
(Signed) G. AMAUER HANSEN.

GRAENHALGH VS. BERGER.

A Decision Rendered in a Celebrated Case.

Judge Dole gave his decision Tuesday morning in the appeal case, heard at Chambers, of assumpsit and set-off the parties to which being W. C. Parke, assignee, W. H. Graenhalgh, bankrupt vs. C. O. Berger.

The circumstances of this case, as gathered from the evidence, are as follows: The defendant held a promissory note against Graenhalgh dated Oct. 24th, 1888, payable in thirty days for \$120, of which \$31.50 was paid on the 4th day of December, 1888, leaving a balance due of \$88.50. About this time Graenhalgh failed, and a meeting of creditors was held, who authorized C. Bolte, his attorney in fact, to keep his store open. The defendant was at the first meeting of the creditors and knew of Graenhalgh's insolvency, and afterwards instructed his wife to go to Graenhalgh's store and buy what she could get; she purchased on credit the goods described in the bill of particulars on the 18th and 19th of Dec. 1888, amount to \$155.50 in value, and the defendant offered the above-mentioned promissory note in payment. Graenhalgh finally went into bankruptcy and his assignee brought this action to collect the bill for the goods, and the defendant pleaded the promissory note as a set-off to the action. The Police Court disallowed the set-off and gave judgment for the plaintiff and the defendant appealed.

Judge Dole said that he considered that the contract of sale between the insolvent Graenhalgh and the defendant was void under section 14 of the Bankruptcy Act. Being made in the violation of the provisions of a statute it is not voidable but void and cannot be confirmed nor enforced. (Wheeler vs. Russell, 17 Mass. 280; Carnes vs. Polk, 4 Calw. 87 Ad. Contr. 715 and N. 1.) "Therefore, because the plaintiff may not enforce a contract that has been prohibited by statute, rather than that the defendant is entitled to relief, judgment may be entered for the defendant."

The New French Chamber.

The new French Chamber consists of 92 land-owners or farmers, 15 doctors of law, 116 barristers, 57 manufacturers or traders, 40 journalists or authors, 48 doctors, 14 engineers, 6 ship-owners, 15 ex-magistrates, 2 generals, 2 admirals, 21 retired officers, 1 naval officer, 11 ex-prefects, 12 ex-diplomatists, 5 ex-councillors of state, 7 notaries, 4 druggists, 2 academicians, 12 bankers, 5 professors, 11 solicitors, 5 clerks, 6 workmen, 2 contractors, 3 iron-masters, 1 railway inspector, 2 bishops, 1 protestant pastor, 1 tobaccoist, 1 dentist, 1 painter, 1 composer, 1 veterinarian, 1 designer and 1 composer. There are also 2 princes, 1 duke, 8 marquises, 16 counts, 4 viscounts and 66 nobles.

There is nothing better for a cut than powdered rosin. Pound it until fine and put in an empty clean pepper box with perforated top, then you can easily sift it out on the cut, and put a soft cloth around the injured member; dampen it with cold water once now and then. It will prevent inflammation and soreness.

The projectors of the fund for a monument to John Bright are disconsolate over the smallness of the returns. Although only \$40,000 was desired and the subscriptions began with a rush, less than \$15,000 has thus far been received.

S. H. Goddard, formerly Grand Chancellor, Knights of Pythias of Nevada, and well-known in California and Colorado as an architect and contractor, died suddenly at Santa Fe recently.

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